

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 368

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION To Honor Dr. Garry Duane Speich, pastor of  
Hermitage United Methodist Church.

WHEREAS, This General Assembly is pleased to recognize those Tennesseans who have answered the call to preach the Gospel and to serve God and humanity as clergymen and community leaders; and

WHEREAS, One such dedicated and committed pastor is Dr. Garry Duane Speich, who for the past 19 years has served the congregation of Hermitage United Methodist Church; he and his wife of 36 years, the former Sara M. (Peggy) Williams, with their son, Eric, have been fully involved in every aspect of the life of the Hermitage UMC congregation; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Speich is the son of the late Henry and Gladys Speich and was raised in Crossville, Tennessee; he attended the public schools there and later obtained an Associate of Arts degree from Martin College in Pulaski, a Bachelor of Science degree from Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, and Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Vanderbilt Divinity School; and

WHEREAS, Garry Speich began his ministry in the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1965 for the Caney Fork Circuit, moved in 1966 to Douglas Chapel-Liberty,

served at Ruth Ensor Memorial in 1969 before moving to Cook's-St. Paul in 1970, and served at New Providence in 1978; he has been Senior Pastor at Hermitage UMC since 1982, overseeing the growth of that congregation from 250 members to 1800 members in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Peggy Speich is a teacher in the Chapter Program, teaching remedial mathematics and reading for Grades 1-6 with the Sylvan Learning Center of Nashville; she teaches at St. Joseph, F.H. Jenkins and Tennessee Christian Elementary; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Speich has contributed significantly to Dr. Speich's ministry, participating in the Choir, Women's Groups, and Sunday school classes; and

WHEREAS, the Speich's son, Eric, grew up at Hermitage UMC, and was active in the various programs of the church; he attended McGavock High School and was active on the school's soccer team and played drums in the band. Eric was a member of the Boy Scouts of America and earned the rank of Eagle Scout; he served in the United States Army and is now training to become a commercial pilot; and

WHEREAS, While at Hermitage UMC, Dr. Speich presided over the building of a new Family Life Center, additional classrooms, and the present sanctuary; plans for a new church building on property already purchased are underway; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Garry Speich has been a prolific preacher, delivering at least three and sometimes four sermons each Sunday; he has taught numerous classes at Hermitage UMC along with the approximately 3,500 sermons preached; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Speich's interests have included his membership in the Upper Cumberland Genealogical Association, the Nashville Swiss Association, the Nashville Emmaus Community, the Donelson/Hermitage Ministerial Alliance, the Lions Club and the Rotary Club, and serves as the past chair of the McKendree Board; he is an avid pursuer of genealogical research, rock collecting, nature and birdwatching and travel; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Speich has served world missions in Mexico, Grenada, Panama, Spain, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, St. Vincent, and the Philippines; he has been a delegate to the World Methodist Conference in Ireland, Hawaii and this year in England; and

WHEREAS, The effectiveness of the Speich family on mission trips is illustrated by the nicknaming of Dr. and Mrs. Speich as "Father and Mother Superior" while on one trip because of their dedication and willingness to contribute their efforts in every aspect of the goals of the mission trip; Dr. Speich has received the Denman Award for Evangelism in the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, The Speichs continue to work for children, schools, churches, clinics and conducting evangelistic services; Dr. Speich has consistently extended his efforts and occasionally foregone sleep in serving the members of his flock, addressing their problems, both great and small, and offering guidance and intercessory prayers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Garry Speich is being promoted to District Superintendent of the Nashville District of the United Methodist Church; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we join with the members of the congregation of the Hermitage United Methodist Church in congratulating Dr. Garry Duane Speich upon his promotion to District Superintendent, honor the Speich family for their dedication and resolute service to God and their fellow human beings while serving at Hermitage UMC, and offer our best wishes for every success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.